

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 779

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to salute the Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 995.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 995 was formed on November 4, 2007, by a group of veterans who regularly attended veteran center meetings and wanted to serve those Tennesseans who courageously and valiantly defended the United States of America as members of the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, led by President Danny Jackson, Chapter 995 has more than 140 members and meets on the last Thursday of each month; and

WHEREAS, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 995 may perform and present at any U.S. military veteran's funeral, offering their services to any family whose

deceased loved one was a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and desired a funeral with full military honors; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2018, eleven members of Chapter 995 performed the 13-Fold Ceremony on the floor of the Tennessee House of Representatives; this ceremony is one of the services offered by Chapter 995 at military funerals of the brave men and women who have proudly served their country. Other services include a 21-volley gun salute and the playing of "Taps," a bugle call regularly played at military funerals by members of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude to our military veterans for their bravery in the line of fire and their dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we salute the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 995 for their bravery and distinguished military service to this country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.